

The Lie Was Passed at Meeting on Wednesday.

EXCITING MOMENT BUT NO BLOWS EXCHANGED

MESSRS. CAUGHMAN AND FISHBURN BELLIGERENT.

The Candidates For Railroad Commissioner, Superintendent of Education, and Adjutant General.

Following are brief synopses of the addresses of the candidates for railroad commissioner, State superintendent of education, and adjutant and inspector general, at the State campaign meeting in Newberry on Wednesday. An exciting moment came during these addresses when Railroad Commissioner Caughman called his opponent, Mr. Fishburne, a liar, and Mr. Fishburne made towards Mr. Caughman as if to strike him, Chairman Dominick stepping between the gentlemen and preventing a personal altercation. The incident as it occurred is given in detail in the report below.

The candidates for railroad commissioner were first on the program, of these candidates, Maj. H. W. Richardson, of Barnwell, was the first speaker.

Maj. H. W. Richardson.

Maj. Richardson began by addressing the ladies, his fellow-citizens and fellow-veterans. He said this was the first time he had ever sought office. He did not believe the office of railroad commissioner needed a speaker or politician, but a plain, practical business man, which he claimed to be. He said he was a native of the good old county of Barnwell—for the most of his life a farmer, and he was proud to say, with some success. He had served his country as best he could in the War Between the States, when he rode with Butler and Hampton and Gary. He gave his record during the trying days of Reconstruction. For these things he claimed no credit. He simply did his duty. But he did claim some credit for the people of Barnwell county for meeting the biggest Republican gathering ever held in South Carolina, at Midway, and there putting forever out of politics in South Carolina that prince of scoundrels, Daniel H. Chamberlain. He gave a history of the remaining years of his life. He said he believed as railroad commissioner he could give the people some relief. He spoke of the hardship of requiring those holding mileage books to secure tickets before boarding trains.

Mr. J. A. Summersett.

of Richland, candidate for railroad commissioner, said that with some degree of right criticisms had been made, from the mountains to the seashore, of the present board of railroad commissioners. Rates were higher in South Carolina than in the adjoining States of Georgia and North Carolina. He had called upon Mr. Caughman to explain these things and up to the present he had failed to do it. Another thing was the mileage books, requiring those holding them to secure tickets. Another thing was station facilities, which were not as they ought to be. By reason of these complaints the people had come to regard the commission as a failure, and had lost the proper respect for it. But the commission could be made what it was in other States—something that would help every business interest. He came before the people with twenty-seven years' practical experience in railroad service. He began at the bottom, on the track, at \$8.00 per month and rations, and unassisted, by merit alone, he had worked himself up to second place on the road which he last served. For the past two years he had had no connection with any railroad, but he had kept himself posted. The present commission was asking for an expert on track and an expert on rates. This would mean additional taxes. If elected he would go in with the practical experience which would obviate the necessity for experts. The expenses of the office of railroad commissioner, he said, had trebled since Mr. Caughman had been in office. If they elected Mr. Caughman again they might expect the expenses to treble during the next six years, which would bring the expenses of the office—including incidentals and everything—up to \$4,000 a year. If elected, Mr. Summersett promised the best service of which he was capable.

Cansler, of Tizah.

Mr. James Cansler, of Tizah, York county, made a speech characteristic of Cansler, of Tizah, beginning with

compliments to ladies. He wanted the State to pay the salaries of the commissioners. The three commissioners should be elected at one time. The board should be composed of one man instead of three. Shippers should have some right of application direct to the courts and without any expense, if possible. Collections for ice should be made at the delivery end, instead of the shipping end. Demurrage should be charged at both ends so that the roads would be made to pay for holding freight before shipping. The person to whom freight was shipped was made to pay demurrage if he did not take out the freight on its arrival, and it was a poor rule that did not work both ways. Rates were 33 1-3 per cent. higher in South Carolina now than in Virginia and North Carolina.

Mr. B. L. Caughman.

of Saluda, candidate for reelection to the office of railroad commissioner, referred to his record in the office, saying he had done his duty fearlessly, conscientiously and honestly. He referred to a circular which had been issued in regard to a decision of the commission as to a depot at Harper's, on the Georgetown and Western road—which circular he said was being used by one of the candidates—as one of the foulest circulars ever perpetrated in a campaign and as an infamous falsehood, and he said he had the records with him to prove his assertion. He defended the commission and the rates in force in South Carolina as compared with other States, citing the figures. It had even been stated, he said by some people in this campaign that a Barnwell man was responsible for the "Jim Crow" car law, but there were men in this house who had sat by him for two years when he was making the fight, and when he won by only one vote. His reference to "the Jim Crow" car law was received with cheers. He promised if elected to be as true to the people in the future as had been in the past.

Mr. F. C. Fishburne.

of Charleston, candidate for railroad commissioner, gave the record of his life. The best part of his life had been spent in Colleton, but for the past sixteen years he had lived in Charleston, and was not ashamed of it. His friend, Maj. Richardson, he said, really lived in Columbia, but claimed to hail from Barnwell. He said he, too, was a Confederate soldier, and in '76 he was one of the leaders in Colleton, and the people of Colleton never allowed Chamberlain to come into their county. But what had these things to do with the office? He said he had helped rebuild the Charleston and Savannah railroad and had worked on the Port Royal and Augusta railroad. He believed he was competent to fill the office and he invited the strictest investigation. He didn't go around with a bottle of whiskey in his pocket or in his valise. He took up the matter of the circular to which Mr. Caughman had referred. It was not a circular, he said, but a letter signed by the people of the community affected. That letter, he said, was read by Mr. Summersett at Aiken and was read again at Georgetown, among the people affected, and it was never denied until a few days ago. It was read again at Kingstree, he said, and at both Kingstree and Georgetown, the people were there to face Mr. Caughman, and he had not denied it. Now Mr. Caughman spoke of it as a circular, but it was a letter signed by those people at Harper. "I charged him," said Mr. Fishburne, "that if he didn't deny it in the presence of those gentlemen at two meetings that then he must be guilty of the charge made against him. Now he comes up here when he gets away from Georgetown, and he denies it. My friends, why didn't he read the circular? He stands here with the backs of telegrams and letters, some of which he read in Columbia yesterday, and there isn't one iota of proof in there that that letter was not correct. The telegrams he read and, I think, one letter, showed only that at one time those gentlemen were willing to compromise the complaint made if the railroad commission would treat them right. But they have never carried out the compromise offered, and that letter stands today as the complaint of those people, because they have never carried out the compromise agreed upon."

At the conclusion of Mr. Fishburne's address Mr. Caughman arose and asked:

"Do you mean to say that I falsified?"

Mr. Fishburne: "I mean to say

that you refused to answer that letter at Georgetown in the presence of those people who wrote it."

Mr. Caughman: "You are a liar and the truth ain't in you."

Mr. Fishburne made reply, but his reply was lost in the excitement of the movement. He advanced towards Mr. Caughman as if to strike him, but Chairman Dominick stepped between the gentlemen and no blows were passed. Chairman Dominick said he regretted the incident and both gentlemen apologized, and the incident was over.

Candidates for Comptroller General Absent.

Neither of the candidates for comptroller general was present. The present comptroller general is Mr. A. W. Jones, who is seeking reelection. A letter was read from his opponent, Mr. N. W. Brooker, of Barnwell, regretting his inability to be present.

Mr. J. E. Swearingen.

of Edgefield, candidate for State superintendent of education, spoke of the duties and responsibilities of the office to which he aspired, and presented his claims for the position. He expressed his regret that Newberry county and South Carolina were to lose the valuable services of that Christian gentleman and eminent educator, Dr. Jas. A. B. Scherer. His reference to Dr. Scherer was heartily applauded. Mr. Swearingen gave a history of his life, saying he had lost his sight while out hunting at the age of 13, but by hard work and with the aid of his mother he secured a collegiate education at the South Carolina university and then took up his work as a teacher at Cedar Springs, in which position he had served for the past nine years. The State superintendent of education, he said, should be a man who can harmonize and systematize the various educational activities of the State. He promised to give the office his attention and the State the best service that was in him.

Mr. E. C. Elmore.

of Spartanburg, candidate for State superintendent of education, advocated a high standard for teachers. He was in favor of all our institutions of learning, but he wanted to see the country schools built up. That was the foundation stone—the country schools. The people were being forced to move from the country to the towns to educate their children, and the value of the farms was being decreased and the agricultural interests injured. He believed that while a State superintendent of education should have all the educational interests of the State at heart, he should have a special care of the common schools. Mr. Elmore said most of his work had been in the common schools and the cotton mill schools, and for the past eight years he had been superintendent of education of Spartanburg county.

Mr. S. R. Mellichamp.

of Orangeburg, candidate for State superintendent of education, gave the record of his life. After graduating at the college of Charleston, he entered the Confederate Army and served four years. He was not presenting that as a qualification for the office. After the war he made teaching his profession and had devoted all his life to education—either as a teacher or as county superintendent of education. He spoke with pride of the progress of South Carolina along educational lines, and he said a man was needed in the office of State superintendent of education who could lead the State along lines of greater educational progress.

Gen. J. C. Boyd.

Gen. J. C. Boyd, of Greenville, who is a candidate for reelection to the office of adjutant and inspector general, was next introduced amid applause. Gen. Boyd stated that he is no stranger in Newberry, having married a Newberry girl. He produced letters of endorsement from more than two-thirds of the militia officers of the State, and devoted the greater portion of his time to the reading of several. He had nothing to say against his opponent, Col. H. T. Thompson, who was absent, but he was the first man to appear before a South Carolina audience and ask them to turn out a Confederate veteran.

Col. H. T. Thompson Absent.

Col. Henry T. Thompson, candidate for adjutant and inspector general, was not present at the meeting. The regular program was changed for the Newberry meeting in order to allow the gubernatorial candidates to speak last. Col. Thompson says that this change was made without his knowledge, and he came to Newberry on the midday train, expecting the regular order to be observed, and for this reason he was not at the meeting when the candidates for adjutant and inspector general were introduced.

YOUTH SHOTS SWEETHEART.

Miss Mary Ball Fatally Wounded by Freeland Tharp Because She Refused His Company.

Greensboro, N. C., Aug. 3.—News reached this city today of the shooting in Wilkes county yesterday of Miss Mary Ball by Freeland Tharp. Miss Ball was teacher in a rural school and Tharp had been paying her attention. She refused to go with him to church but went with his brother instead, while Freeland Tharp escorted another young woman who lived at the same house with Miss Ball. When they had returned from church, just as Miss Ball was entering the porch, Freeland Tharp drew his pistol and fired three shots at her. One of the bullets entered her left breast about an inch above the heart, inflicting a fatal wound. Tharp was captured, relieved of his weapon and is now in jail at Wilkesboro.

CHILD KILLED IN A RUNAWAY.

Columbia State, 4th. Little Mildred Lindsay, the 3-year-old child of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hinnant, was fatally injured in a runaway accident near Bookman, about 15 miles north of Columbia, yesterday. The little one climbed into a wagon which was being driven around the farm and shortly afterwards the team became frightened and ran away. The baby was thrown out, her head striking the ground violently.

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